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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1292
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 04489

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL NATO ITALY
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: ITALIAN FOOTNOTES ON LTDP

REF: (A) STATE 113394 DTG 040107Z APR 78, (B) USNATO 4472 DTG 031718Z APR 78, (C) USNATO 4475 DTG 031918Z APR 78

SUMMARY: WE PROVIDE BELOW, FOR POSSIBLE USE IN LOBBYING EFFORTS WITH THE ITALIANS, A LIST OF ITALIAN FOOTNOTES TO THE LTDP AS WE CATALOGUE THEM FOLLOWING THE ITALIAN REP'S ACTIONS AT THE MAY 2 EWG. WE UNDERSTAND, INFORMALLY, THAT MGEN BOWMAN, OASD/ISA, WILL IN ROME TO, INTER ALIA, ASSIST EMBASSY ROME IN THE LOBBYING EFFORTS WITH THE ITALIANS ON THE LTDP. MGEN BOWMAN WILL CARRY WITH HIM A COPY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. OUR POINTS OF DETAIL BELOW ARE KEYED TO THE REPORT. IF MGEN BOWMAN DOES NOT COME, WE RECOMMEND EMBASSY ROME CONCENTRATE ON REF A IN ITS LOBBYING EFFORTS WITH ITALIANS AND PERHAPS PICKING UP SOME OF THE MORE SELF-EXPLANATORY ITEMS FROM OUR LIST. END SUMMARY.
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1. ANNEX A (READINESS)

A. ITALY FOOTNOTED THE PARAGRAPH ON THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM (PARA 14(G)) BECAUSE "ITALY IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO AGREE THAT THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD GO TO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT."

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B. ON RECATEGORIZATION OF UNITS (APPENDIX 2) ITALY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE NUMBERS WHICH THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED, I.E., 8 AIR SQUADRONS TO "ASSIGNED" AND 4 AIR SQUADRONS TO "EARMARKED." NUMBERS ARE DEPENDENT ON "ON-GOING NATIONAL STUDIES."

2. ANNEX B (REINFORCEMENT)

. ON SEALIFT AND AIRLIFT (PARA 5(A)) ITALY PLACED A RESERVATION ON THE DATE "MID-1979" FOR COMMITTING 600 HIGH-PRODUCTIVITY MERCHANT SHIPS. AT MAY 2 EWG ITALIAN REP SAID ITALY WILL NOT REMOVE THE "RESERVATION ON THE DATE UNTIL THE MINISTERIAL."

3. ANNEX C (RESERVE MOBILIZATION)

A. PARA 4 AND PARA 5(A)(I). THE ITALIAN REP REPLACED THE EXISTING FOOTNOTE ON PARA 4 WITH A FOOTNOTE ON PARA 5(A)(I) SAYING "UNDER CONSIDERATION BY ITALY." THIS REFLECTS ITALY'S VIEW THAT ITS RESERVISTS ARE ALREADY ADEQUATELY TRAINED BECAUSE THEY ARE MADE UP OF PERSONNEL DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITHIN THE PAST 1-2 YEARS. WE CONSIDER THIS A DUBIOUS PROPOSITION.

B. PARA 5(B). ITALY REMAINS WITH DENMARK AND TURKEY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ONLY NATIONS STILL HAVING THIS PARAGRAPH ON ADDED RESERVE BRIGADES IN AD REFERENDUM STATUS.

4. ANNEX D (MARITIME POSTURE)

A. ITALY FOOTNOTED THE SECOND HALF OF PARA 12(A)(III) ON SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT BECAUSE ITALY WANTS TO INSERT "THE AIM OF PROVIDING" WITH REFERENCE TO NARROWBAND SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT. THE IT REP SAID THIS CHANGE WILL BRING THE RECOMMENDATION IN LINE WITH THE TASK FORCE REPORT, AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHY NATIONS WERE NOT SUPPORTING THE ITALIAN FIX. (FYI: THERE IS SOME QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION OF WHEN THE NARROWBAND EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE, I.E., IN THE MID-TERM OR IN THE LONG-TERM. THEREFORE, WE DON'T RECOMMEND HITTING THE ITALIANS ON THIS ISSUE. END FYI.)

B. ITALY HAS A RESERVATION ON THE TIMESCALE "MID-TERM" ON PARA 12(B)(II). WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE THE REASON BEHIND THE ITALIAN RESERVATION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LACK OF FUNDS TO INCREASE WAR RESERVE STOCKS IS BEHIND IT.

C. ON IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING MINELAYING AND MINING CAPA-

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BILITY (PARA 12(D)(II)) ITALY PREFERS ONLY TO "GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION" TO THE PROPOSAL.

D. ON PROGRAM COORDINATION ISSUE, ITALY IS NOT AGAINST THE IDEA BUT SEES NO NEED NOW TO SPECIFY IN THE MARITIME AREA (OR IN THE OTHER ANNEXES WHERE IT COMES UP) WHO WILL BE DESIGNATED AS THE COORDINATOR.

5. ANNEX E (AIR DEFENSE). THIS ANNEX HAS NO ITALIAN FOOTNOTES.

6. ANNEX F (C3)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 04489

A. PARA 3 AND PARA 11(B). THE ITALIAN REP JOINED OTHERS ON A RESERVATION TO THOSE PARAGRAPHS DESPITE THE EWG'S SUBSTITUTING THE WORD "APPROVAL" FOR "IMPLEMENTATION." THIS RESERVATION LOOKS HARMFUL AND RAISES SUSPICION SINCE DEFINITION OF MINIMUM INTEROPERABILITY STANDARDS IS A PREREQUISITE FOR INTEROPERABLE C3 SYSTEMS.

B. PARA 6. ITALY MAINTAINED ITS FOOTNOTE SINCE IT MAINTAINS THAT THE CALL FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SCRA SYSTEMS DOES NOT APPLY TO ITALY. FURTHER, THE ITALIAN REP SUPPORTED TWO UK FOOTNOTES THAT WATER DOWN THE CALL FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TACTICAL TRUNK NETWORK AND SCRA PROGRAMS.

C. PARA 11. ITALY DROPPED ITS GENERAL FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 4 AND NOW FOOTNOTES A RESERVATION ("AGREE IN PRINCIPLE AND IMPLEMENT GRADUALLY SUBJECT TO FURTHER STUDIES") SPECIFIC-

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ALLY ONLY PARAS 11(C)(II) AND 11(C)(V). HOWEVER, IF THE UK-PROPOSED CHANGES FOR PARAS 6(A) AND 6(B) ARE NOT ACCEPTED, PRESUMABLY ITALY WILL FOOTNOTE PARA 11(C)(IV).

7. ANNEX G (EW)

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A. PARA 5. ITALY HAS DROPPED ITS RESERVATION.

B. PARA 9. ITALY HAS ADDED THE FOOTNOTE "SUBJECT TO FURTHER STUDY" TO PARAS 9(A)(I), 9(A)(III), AND 9(B)(III), AND THE FOOTNOTE "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE" TO PARAS 9(A)(II) AND 9(B)(II).

8. ANNEX H (RATIONALIZATION). THERE IS ONLY ONE ITALIAN FOOTNOTE IN THIS ANNEX (APPLIED TO SUBPARAS 12(B)(II) AND (III)), WHICH INDICATES ITALY CAN ONLY "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE." THESE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS REFER TO WHAT THE US SEES AS ALLIES WRITING THEIR OWN NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS SIMILAR TO OUR DOD 2010.6 ON STANDARDIZATION. WE THINK THAT ALL THAT IS NEEDED HERE IS AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT IS EXPECTED. WE BELIEVE THE ITALIANS ARE READING MUCH MORE INTO THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH COMPLICATES THEIR ABILITY TO ACCEPT THEM.

9. ANNEX J (LOGISTICS)

A. THE ITALIAN REP DROPPED THE FOOTNOTE ON PARA 7 AND THE FOOTNOTE ON PARA 10.

B. PARA 12 (RECOMMENDATIONS):

. (1) ITALY HAS KEPT ITS FOOTNOTE ON PARA 12(D), BUT DROPPED IT ON 12(B).

. (2) THE ITALIAN REP HAS NOT SUPPORTED PREFERRED US LANGUAGE ON PARAS 12(A), 12(C), 12(E), AND 12(F). BENNETT

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